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Attorney Docket No.: 21943-1017
Express Mail No. EL 709 078 960 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:) Group Art Unit: To be assigned
Hiroki TANTYAMA et al.)
Serial No.: To be assigned)) Examiner: To be assigned
Filed: Filed herewith)
For: PROCESSING APPARATUS,)
PROCESSING SYSTEM AND)
PROCESSING METHOD)

JC658 U.S. PRO
09/849880
05/04/01



San Diego, California 92101
May 4, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants make the below-listed documents of record in the above-identified application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, this statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, and is not a representation that the information cited is effective as prior art to the application or is material to patentability.

Foreign Patent Documents

1. Japan Patent Document No. 63-190679, published August 8, 1988, for which an English-language Abstract is submitted herewith.
2. Japan Patent Document No. 64-61917, published March 8, 1989, for which an English-language Abstract is submitted herewith.

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service Express Mail Service (Label no. EL 709 078 960 US) on the date shown below with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Box PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date of Deposit: May 4, 2001

Signature:

Gregory P. Austin

Gregory P. Austin

3. Japan Patent Document No. 4-206626, published July 28, 1992, for which an English-language Abstract is submitted herewith.

4. Japan Patent Document No. 11-40557, published February 12 1999, for which an English-language Abstract is submitted herewith.

5. Japan Patent Document No. 2948055, published July 2, 1999, for which an English-language Abstract is submitted herewith.

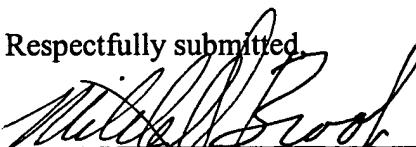
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Copies of the above-listed documents, which are listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 (submitted in duplicate), are enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that these documents be (1) fully considered by the Patent and Trademark Office in examination of this application; and (2) printed on any patent which may issue on this application. It is also respectfully requested that a copy of Form PTO-1449, as considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned to the undersigned with the next communication, in accordance with MPEP § 609.

It is believed that no additional fee is required in connection with this submission. In the event that an additional fee is required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-0410, in the name of Baker & McKenzie.

Respectfully submitted



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